

SOUTHMORELAND PRIMARY CENTER

May 2016

Dear
Parents/Guardians,

April was a good month for activities here at SPC. On April 1, we celebrated “Light It Up Blue” and our bunny hop fundraiser for Autism was a huge success as always. The students raised nearly three thousand dollars for Autism. We walked to the high school on April 6 to watch a rehearsal for our HS play which was very fun. Preschools and Head Start have been



visiting us this month in preparation for our new kindergarteners to arrive next fall. On April 22, we celebrated Earth Day together and we enjoyed learning all about our home . First Grade students brought their Earth Day projects to school and they are on display throughout our building.

In May, we have many more activities as we close the year. The Grimm Brothers will visit us on May 6. Our Fun Day is slated for May 20, rain or shine. Memorial Day is May 30 and the last day of school for students is June 2. We will have a half day early dismissal that day.

It has been a pleasure to be your child’s principal. On behalf of the faculty and staff at Southmoreland Primary Center, I thank you for a wonderful year and wish each of you a safe and enjoyable summer break.

Respectfully,

Mr. Clara
Principal, SPC

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Breaking the Code: Primary Grade RESEARCH Parent & Child Reading Skills



To read a book, your child needs to sound out words, recognize common ones like “the,” understand what the text means, and read fast enough to make sense of the story. The National Research Council, the National Institute for Literacy, and the National Reading Panel, a group commissioned by Congress to determine consensus in reading research, identified these key skills to learn how to read:

- **Phonics:** Knowing the relationship between the sounds of spoken language and the letters of written language is essential for reading.

Reading milestones:

- Understanding that the order of letters in a written word represents the order of sounds in a spoken word
- Knowing the sounds letters make
- Blending letter sounds together to make a word /b/ /i/ /g/ makes "big"
- Sounding out words she doesn't know, both real and nonsense: "sit" and "zot"
- Developing an understanding of often-used prefixes and suffixes, such as un- and -ing, -ed, -s, and -est.

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- **Word recognition:** Many common words in English, such as "the" and "one," don't fit the phonics rules, so your child needs to memorize them.

Reading milestones:

- Automatically reading high-frequency irregular words such as "are," "was," "were," "you," and "said"
- Instantly reading familiar words such as "cat," "dog," "mother," and "daddy" without having to sound them out

- **Fluency:** To read fluently, your child must not only be able to recognize words instantly, but also be able to divide the text into meaningful chunks.

Reading milestones:

- Reading aloud with expression
- Pausing at appropriate spots in the text

- **Spelling and writing:** Your child increases his knowledge of how print works when he spells and writes on his own. When he makes each letter, he learns to associate a sound with it. At first he may write "book" as bk — because he hears the /b/ and /k/ sounds. With instruction, he learns correct spelling.

Milestones:

- Correctly spelling previously studied words
- Spelling a word the way it sounds if he doesn't know how to spell it
- Knowing the mechanics of writing — sentences, capitalization, punctuation

- **Comprehension:** To read, your child must understand the meaning of the words. She builds comprehension when she discusses what she thinks a book will be about and summarizes what happened in a story. Her understanding increases as her vocabulary expands.

Reading milestones:

- Predicting what might happen next in a story
- Noticing that a word she's just read doesn't make sense in a sentence
- Recalling facts and details from texts

